

Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY JUNE 6, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Gay 2011's fastest

American sprinter Tyson Gay notched the world's best 100m of 2011 on Saturday as he posted 9.79sec at a low-key meeting in Clermont, Florida. Gay, 28, improved on the 9.89 run by Jamaican training partner Steve Mullings in May, and also pipped the 9.80sec that Mullings delivered in winning the 100m at the Prefontaine Classic Diamond League meeting in Eugene, Oregon, a few hours later for the year's fastest to date. Gay posted his time in a heat in the National Training Center Sprint Series. He had a legal wind of 1.1 m/sec for the run.

-AFP



King of clay

AFP, Paris



Rafael Nadal won a 10th Grand Slam crown and equalled Bjorn Borg's record of six French Open titles when he defeated Roger Federer 7-5, 7-6, 5-7, 6-1 on Sunday in the rivals' latest epic duel.

Top seed Nadal, who was also champion in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2010, took his overall Paris record to 45 wins against just one defeat and victory also meant he hangs on to his world number one spot.

It was the 25-year-old Spaniard's 17th win over Federer in 25 meetings and fourth in a Roland Garros final.

But unlike the pair's 2008 clash, when Federer managed to win just four games in the most one-sided final in 30 years, Nadal was made to work harder for his sixth Paris title.

He had to come from 2-5 in the opener, saving a set point, and then squandered a 4-2 lead in the third as 29-year-old Federer, the 2009 champion and bidding for a 17th Grand Slam title, threatened to launch a stunning comeback.

In the end, he was undone by a combination of Nadal's claycourt prowess and his own 56 unforced errors.

"Thanks to all the fans. Thanks to all the ones who make this tournament the best in the world," said Nadal after his sixth win in eight Grand Slam final meetings with Federer.

"We played a good match today. Roger played a fantastic match."

Federer praised the Spaniard.

"It was an exceptional performance by Rafa. He's beaten me again. I'm sad but I am happy to play him again," said Federer.

"He is the best player on clay but I am proud of the way I have played over the last two weeks but I couldn't do enough against him."

In a final played in heavy, muggy conditions in the French

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Spanish world number one Rafael Nadal hits a searing backhand against archrival Roger Federer of Switzerland in the French Open final at Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BCB moves firmly towards Law



SPORTS REPORTER

Though good judgment has finally dawned on the Bangladesh Cricket Board high-ups regarding discretion during negotiations with coaches, it has been learned that they are zeroing in on one particular name.

A source confirmed that the management team of Stuart Law, the interim head coach of Sri Lanka and currently in the middle of their Test against England at Lord's, has been "approached" by the BCB who enquired about his availability for the position.

The former Australian batsman has been favoured ever since the board began the hunt for a new coach, though a few had applied for the position.

It has also been suggested that it will be up to the president and CEO Manzur Ahmed to seal the deal with Law as there are a few points to iron out.

After Saturday's lengthy board meeting in Mirpur, the BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal said that secrecy should be maintained during these discussions.

Apparently, the board chief was not pleased with the media's role of naming coaches when nothing has been confirmed by any party.

What was strange is that it was the chief who informed the media of the board's talks with Vincent Barnes at a spur-of-the-moment last Wednesday but after the meeting, Kamal said that from now on they would not disclose any applicant's name.

Barnes has been cut off from the shortlist due to his probably appointment with the national academy in South Africa, said a source. "A few other names are also being talked about by the BCB but it is all up to the people who are responsible in negotiating with the coaches," said the source.

Shakib kept waiting

SPORTS REPORTER

The Worcestershire-Durham Friends Life t20 game at the New Road ground has been called off due to incessant rain.

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan was all set to make his return for the Royals but at around 9.30pm, the call-off was confirmed.

Worcestershire next take on Yorkshire on June 9 at Headingley.

Donald's no to Kiwis

AFP, Wellington

Former South African pace-man Allan Donald rejected an offer to become New Zealand's bowling coach Sunday to pursue a job in his homeland, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said.

Donald worked as the Black Caps' bowling coach for three months earlier this year and New Zealand administrators had hoped to sign him on permanently.

Dilshan makes England toil



AFP, London

England finally saw the back of Tillakaratne Dilshan at Lord's but not before the Sri Lanka captain had made 193 in the second Test here on Sunday.

Sri Lanka were 372 for three in reply to England's first innings 486, a deficit of 114 runs, when rain forced an early tea on the third day.

Dilshan, 187 not out at lunch, got the four runs he needed for the highest Test score by a Sri Lankan at Lord's, topping the 190 made by Sidath Wettimuny during the islanders' Test debut at 'the home of cricket' in 1984.

But on 192 he was, for the second time in his innings, struck a painful blow on the right hand by fast bowler Chris Tremlett.

A visibly hurt Dilshan carried on but there was no maiden Test double century for the dashing opener.

Instead, he added just one more run before being bowled by a full-length Steven Finn delivery that nipped back sharply under cloudy skies and clipped Dilshan's leg before hitting the stumps.

In all, Dilshan's Test-best innings

spanned more than seven hours and featured two sixes and 20 fours.

His exit left Sri Lanka 370 for three after an entertaining third-wicket stand of 82 with Mahela Jayawardene.

Former captain Jayawardene, whose two previous Tests at Lord's had both yielded hundreds, was 40 not out when rain forced

TOP SCORES AT LORD'S BY A TOURING CAPTAIN

Player	Runs	Date
Graeme Smith (SA)	259	July 31, 2003
Allan Border (Aus)	196	June 27, 1985
Tillekaratne Dilshan (SL)	193	June 3, 2011
Hanif Mohammad (Pak)	187*	July 27, 1967
Bevan Congdon (NZ)	175	June 21, 1973

the players off the field at 2.37pm local time. Thilan Samaraweera was unbeaten on one, with 51 overs left in the day.

Dilshan's exit was a reward for a much-improved England bowling display following a struggling morning session for the hosts.

Sri Lanka resumed on 231 for one -- a marked contrast to their previous innings of 82 all out that led to England's innings and 14-run win in Cardiff in the first of this three-match series.

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PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka captain Tillakaratne Dilshan kisses the badge on his helmet after reaching 150 against England on the third day of the second Test against England at Lord's yesterday.

Floodlights defer Jamal, Russel clash

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation shifted yesterday's scheduled Bangladesh League fixture between Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Sheikh Russel KC to today due to failure of the floodlight at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The crucial match of the league was initially scheduled for a 4:15pm start but the football's governing body deferred it to 8:00pm for the dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the opposition. However, the floodlights failed to work, postponing the match for the day.

With this shift, all the



Babita Khatun, winner of nine gold in the Ashiyani City 27th National Age-Group Swimming Championships, shows the victory sign at the National Swimming Complex yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH.COM

AGE-GROUP SWIMMING

Ansar rule the pool

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar established their dominance in the Ashiyani City 27th National Age-Group Swimming Championships edging the defending champions by 10 gold as the curtains were drawn at the National Swimming Complex yesterday. Ansar finished with 55 gold, 32 silver and 24 bronze to dethrone who bagged Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) 45 gold, 55 silver and 32 bronze to grab the second place.

Titu Mia of BKSP emerged in the boys section winning 11 gold while Bobita Khatun of Ansar became the best in the girls' section with 9 gold, one silver and one bronze.

One the last day of the last the event yesterday, eight new records were set, taking the tally of broken records to 20 for the event. In the backstroke event of the 15-17 year age group, Mahmudunnabi of BKSP set a new record at 2:26.61 mins beating the previous mark by 1.13 seconds. Mahmudunnabi

broke the 100m butterfly record too, at a time of 1:00:38 mins.

In the same event of the girls' group, Shanta Haider of BKSP set a new record at 1:21.25 mins. Titu Mia of BKSP, meet's best boy swimmer, set the 100m breaststroke record at 1:18.28 mins. Mariam Khatun of Ansar set a new record same event of the girls' group at 1:26.72 mins. In the 100m freestyle, Nazma Khatun of Ansar set a new record at 1:09.63 mins. Rozina Khatun of Ansar set a new 50m freestyle record in the 18 year age group at a time of 31.98 seconds. Jewel Ahmed of the same team set the boys' 200m individual medley record at 2:20.74 mins.

A total of 700 young age-group swimmers from 71 teams competed in 103 events over the three days of competition. At the end of competition, President of Bangladesh Swimming Federation and navy chief Vice Admiral Jahir Uddin Ahmed handed over prizes among the winners.